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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1944

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURPORT - on - SEVERN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Urban District for the Year 1944.

This report is prepared in accordance with Circular 49/45 issued in March 1945 by the Ministry of Health.

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SECTION 'A'.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	3,204
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books.	2,276
Rateable Value.	£104,573
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£414
Registrar Generals' estimate (mid. 1944) of resident population.	8,770.

Live Births.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	175.	77	98.
Illegitimate.	12.	7	5.

This gives a birth rate per 1,000 estimated population of 21.3. The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.6.

Still Births.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	5	3	2
Illegitimate.	1	1	-

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births) is 32.0.

Deaths.

Total.	Male.	Female.
85.	38.	47.

The death rate per 1,000 estimated population is therefore 9.7. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 11.6 for the same period.

Maternal Mortality Rate.

There were no deaths of Mothers associated with childbirth during the year.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	5	4	1
Illegitimate.	-	-	-

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year is 26.7. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales is 46 for the same period.

The above figures are corrected to include residents of the Urban District only.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Deaths from Cancer.	(all ages.)	17.
Deaths from Measles.	(all ages.)	-
Deaths from Whooping Cough.	(all ages)	-
Deaths from Diarrhoea.	(under 2 yrs.)	-

SECTION 'B'.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. J.A. Stobbs, who resigned in September 1944.

From 4th December 1944 - Dr. Margaret Fell.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector - Mr. L.H. Poole, M.Inst., M.C.E., C.R.S.I.

Deputy Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector - Mr. P.A. Hemmett.

(b) Laboratory Facilities. These are provided by the County Council at their Laboratory in Worcester.

(c) Ambulance Services. These are provided by a rota of volunteer drivers and attendants and an ambulance which is lent to the Council by the British Red Cross Society.

(d) Hospitals. The County Council's two Maternity Homes, The Lucy Baldwin Home and Lickhill Manor, provide the district with Maternity beds.

Cases of Infectious Disease can be admitted to Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen.

Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is provided by the County Council.

Cases of Scabies can be treated at the County Council's hospital at Tolladine, Worcester.

Treatment for cases of Venereal Disease is provided free of charge by the County Council at the following hospitals.

General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.

Kidderminster & District General Hospital, Kidderminster, Worcs.

Worcester Royal Infirmary, Worcester.

Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

(e) Clinics.

Stourport.: The County Council's antenatal clinic is held each Tuesday afternoon at The Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home in charge of Dr. R.S. MacArthur and Dr. Mackie.

The Infant Welfare Clinic is held on each first and third Friday afternoon in the month at the Lucy Baldwin Home. Children under five years of age can be immunised against Diphtheria at this Clinic.

Areley Kings. The County Council's Infant Welfare Centre in charge of Dr. E.M. Winter is held in the Parish hall, Areley Kings on the second and fourth Friday afternoon in the month. Children under five years of age can be immunised against Dephtheria at this clinic.

(f) Nursing in the Homes. In Stourport and Wilden, this is provided by the Stourport and Wilden District Nursing Association and is done by three district nurse midwives.

The Nursing Association holds an antenatal clinic each second and fourth Monday afternoon in the month at The Lucy Baldwin Home.

In addition to these duties the three nurses do the health visiting for the whole of Stourport and Wilden and assist the Medical Officers with School Medical Inspection and at the Infant Welfare Centre. They visit and follow up cases of Tuberculosis in the district. They also give valuable help with the diphtheria immunisation campaign.

Areley Kings is served by the Astley and Areley Kings District Nursing Association. The Nursing and Health Visiting and Tuberculosis Visiting in this area is done by Nurse Aldridge. She also attends School Medical Inspections and the Infant Welfare Centre and helps with the diphtheria immunisation campaign.

SECTION 'C'.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER. The water supply from Mount Pleasant continued to be satisfactory throughout the year, both for quantity and quality.

Bacteriological and chemical examinations, taken from the source of the water at Bewdley, were made each month and gave satisfactory results.

The majority of the dwelling houses in the Urban District have a water supply direct from the mains with the exception of approximately thirty houses in Areley Kings which are supplied by means of Stand-pipes, and a small number of dwelling houses in Wilden and the Titton area which derive their water supply from shallow wells.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year twelve closets in Areley Kings and four closets in Wilden were converted from the conservancy to the water-carriage system.

The disposal of sewage was satisfactorily dealt with at the new works throughout the year.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE.

Are reported on below by the Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken in this matter during the year.

SECTION 'D'.

HOUSING. Very little action was taken in this matter owing to the emergency of war.

The report on the housing conditions of the area made by the Medical Officer of Health during 1943 should be brought up to date so that condemnation of unfit property and the abatement of overcrowding can be undertaken by the Council as soon as practicable.

SECTION 'E'.

Inspection & Supervision of Food. This was continued as usual during the year.

SECTION 'F'.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The number of children immunised during the year, either at Clinics, Schools or by the General Practitioners was as follows:-

1.	Pre-School Children.	89.
2.	School Children.	5.
	Total.	94.

At the end of 1944 the percentage figures of immunised children estimated in the two age groups of 0 - 5 and 5 - 15 years were 58% and 78.2% respectively.

One case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

No deaths from diphtheria occurred during the year.

Cases of infectious disease notified during the year are shown in the following table.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	9	2	-
Diphtheria.	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	16	15	-
Primary Pneumonia.	3	-	-
Erysipelas.	2	-	-
Measles.	6	-	-
Whooping Cough.	49	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	1	1	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during the year.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES. Pulmonary. M.	NEW CASES. Pulmonary. F.	NEW CASES. Non-Pulmonary. M.	NEW CASES. Non-Pulmonary. F.	DEATHS. Pulmonary. M.	DEATHS. Pulmonary. F.	DEATHS. Non-Pulmonary. M.	DEATHS. Non-Pulmonary. F.
0 1 5			1					
15	1	2						
25	1				1			
35	2	2				1		
45 55 65 and over.	2				2			
TOTALS.	6	4	1		3	1		

My thanks are due to Mr. Poole and his staff for their help in the compilation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET C. FELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1944.

The Council House,

Stourport - on - Severn.

To The Chairman and Members of The Stourport-on-Severn Urban District Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report of certain work carried out during the year ended 31st December 1944.

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES.

During the year 650 visits of inspection and re-inspection were paid to houses and other premises under the various Acts, Byelaws and Regulations in connection with housing, abatement of nuisances, infectious diseases, etc. It was not found necessary to resort to legal proceedings, but great difficulty was experienced in getting work done owing to the very great shortage of labour.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

Details of the various notifiable diseases are given in the report of the Medical Officer of Health. As in previous years inspections, the supply of disinfectant and printed instructions has been continued.

REFUSE SCAVENGING.

This work has again been carried out by the Council's workmen and the details of the work are as follows.

Dry Refuse.		Liquid Refuse.	
Dust Bins emptied.	111,784	Cesspools emptied.	308.
Loads removed.	1,046	Middens emptied.	38
		Pails emptied.	16,833
		Loads removed.	1,403

This service has been handicapped and unsatisfactory conditions have arisen through the acute shortage of galvanized iron dust bins to replace defective and worn out bins at a large number of houses.

CANAL BOATS.

No complaints were received, neither were any cases of infectious diseases notified amongst any of the persons using the boats.

There were no applications for registration made during the year and no other matter arose to which it was necessary to draw the notice of the Council.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No offensive trades were established during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The consumption of water for all purposes as recorded by the meters at Mount Pleasant during the year was 174,301,000 gallons. This was an increase of 39,322,000 gallons as compared with the previous year.

A further 16 houses and other premises were connected to the mains. The supply continued to be of excellent quality and in spite of the very abnormal increase in consumption no shortage was experienced and no restrictions had to be imposed.

DRAINAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Towards the year end the work of connecting properties in the Wilden area to the new sewers was put in hand and the drainage from 4 houses was so dealt with.

The pail closets at 8 houses were converted to the water carriage system and this work was proceeding at other properties at the close of the year.

The conversion of closets at Areley Kings which was commenced last year also received attention and 8 more were dealt with by the owners.

SALVAGE OF WASTE MATERIALS.

The following are the details of the materials recovered and disposed of during the year.

	Tons.	Cwts.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper.	77	1	505	12	11.
Tins & Light Scrap.	7	16	5	8	10.
Scrap Metal.	3	2	6	5	0.
Sacking.	11	17	21	0	3.
Rags.	5	18	120	5	0.
Bottles.	12	18.	18	11	9.
Bones.	1	15	9	3	4.
Rubber.	Nil .		Nil.		
Rope & String.		9	3	4	9.
Kitchen Waste.	1	12	2	9	1.
Totals.	122	8	£692	0	11.

The above totals are 98 Tons 10 Cwts. and £93 1 14 : 5d. less than for 1943. This was expected owing to the reduction in the amount of Salvage which is becoming available as the war continues. Further, recovery of Tins and Light Scrap. Scrap Metals and Rubber were discontinued in accordance with the Ministry's instructions, while the collection of Kitchen Waste ceased in January owing to the unsatisfactory and irregular emptying of the bins by the Contractors. The selling price of Tins and Light Scrap and Sacking fell by 12½% and over 50%. A pleasing feature during the year was the County Book Drive, which was a conspicuous success. The target figure for the District was 20,000 books, but over 33,000 were collected. During the five years in which the Salvage Scheme has been in operation 804 Tons 17 Cwts. of materials have been recovered for the war effort. The value of such materials sold came to £2,961 : 11 : 4d.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LEWIS H. POOLE.

Sanitary Inspector.